

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication of the allowance of Claims 14-18.

Claims 1, 2, and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 6,181,396 to Kanoh et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Kanoh et al. reference fails to disclose all of the claimed features of the present invention. More specifically, the Kanoh et al. reference fails to disclose a method of manufacturing a substrate for a liquid crystal display device that includes, *inter alia*, a step of performing a heat treatment to said resin layer to form random wrinkles of micro-grooves in said surface portion, with "said random wrinkles of micro-grooves having ridges of a linear or curved continuous pattern," as recited in amended independent Claim 1.

Support for this amendment to Claim 1 can be found in Applicants' specification as originally filed, such as in Figures 4-7, 8A-8C and 12A-12D. More specifically, the claimed "wrinkles of micro-grooves having ridges of a linear or curved continuous pattern" can be seen in Applicants' Figures 4-7, which are micro-photographs that show various examples of wrinkles of micro-grooves, as well as in Applicants' Figures 8A-8C, which are diagrams depicting AFM images of examples of wrinkles of micro-grooves. As can be seen in these figures, the wrinkles of micro-grooves contain various different

shapes having “ridges of a linear or curved continuous pattern,” such as those shapes depicted separately in Figures 12A-12D.

In contrast to the claimed "random wrinkles of micro-grooves having ridges of a linear or curved continuous pattern," Figure 12 of Kanoh et al. does not show ridges that are of a curved or linear continuous pattern. Instead, the corrugations shown in Figure 12 of Kanoh et al. are discontinuous. Further, since the corrugations of the Kanoh et al. reference are formed by a lithography process employing a chromium mask, such corrugations will not include “ridges of a linear or curved continuous pattern,” as recited in independent Claim 1. Thus for at least this reason, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of this §102(b) rejection of independent Claim 1 and associated dependent Claims 2 and 9.

Additionally, Applicants respectfully submit that the pattern shown in Figure 12 of Kanoh et al. merely consists of various irregular peaks, which can not be considered as then claimed “wrinkles of micro-grooves” of Claim 1 because they are merely generally isolated peaks, as opposed to being of either a "wrinkle" configuration or a "groove" configuration. More specifically, in the copy of page 1367 of Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary (attached to Response E, filed June 21, 2007), the most relevant definition of the term "wrinkle" is "a small ridge or furrow, esp. when formed on a surface by the shrinking or contraction of a smooth surface." In the copy of page 514 of Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary (also attached to Response E, filed June 21, 2007), the most relevant definition of the term "groove" is "a long narrow channel or depression." The small valleys created between the various isolated peaks of Figure 12 of Kanoh et al. are more like dimples or indentations, and thus they should not be considered as "small ridges or furrows" (i.e.,

wrinkles), nor should they be considered as "long narrow channel[s] or depression[s]" (i.e., grooves). Thus, for this reason also, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of this §102(B) rejection of independent Claim 1 and associated dependent Claims 2, 3, and 9.

Claims 3, 4 and 7-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kanoh et al. in view of United States Patent No. 6,327,009 to Ichimura et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claims 3, 4 and 7-9 all depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 1, and therefore include all of the features of Claim 1, plus additional features. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the §103 rejection of dependent Claims 4 and 7-9 under Kanoh et al. in view of Ichimura '009 be withdrawn considering the above remarks directed to independent Claim 1, and also because Ichimura '009 does not remedy the deficiencies noted above, nor was it relied upon as such.

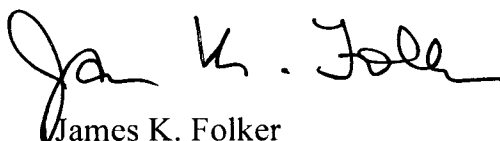
Claims 5-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Kanoh et al. in view of United States Patent No. 6,339,291 to Codama. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claims 5-9 all depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 1, and therefore include all of the features of Claim 1, plus additional features. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the §103 rejection of dependent Claims 5-9 under Kanoh et al. in view of Codama be withdrawn considering the above remarks directed to independent Claim 1, and also because Codama does not remedy the deficiencies noted above, nor was it relied upon as such.

For all of the above reasons, Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the claimed invention. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference would aid in the prosecution of the application, or that outstanding issues exist, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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